



“Discovering Peace in Life”

The Old Testament account of a Mom who trusted in God alone

1st Samuel Chapters 1 & 2

Hannah’s Story:

There was a certain man ...whose name was Elkanah 2 He had two wives; one was called Hannah and the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none. 3 Year after year this man went up from his town to worship and sacrifice to the LORD Almighty at Shiloh.

Whenever the day came for Elkanah to sacrifice, he would give portions of the meat to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters. 5 But to Hannah he gave a double portion because he loved her, and the LORD had closed her womb.

6 Because the LORD had closed Hannah’s womb, her rival kept provoking her in order to irritate her. 7 This went on year after year. Whenever Hannah went up to the house of the LORD, her rival provoked her till she wept and would not eat.

I. Why was Hannah crying?

Robert Alter a Hebrew scholar writes: Polygamy in the Bible is never pictured in a positive light.

In ancient societies everything about a woman’s future depended upon her _____

III. What did Hannah learn?

“The bows of the warriors are broken, but those who stumbled are armed with strength. 5 Those who were full hire themselves out for food, but those who were hungry are hungry no more. She who was barren has borne seven children, but she who has had many sons pines away. ... 8-He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes and has them inherit a throne of honor. He will guard the feet of his faithful servants, but the wicked will be silenced in the place of darkness. “It is not by strength that one prevails; 1 Samuel 2:4,5,8

- God works through weakness not through _____

“Sing, barren woman,
you who never bore a child;
burst into song, shout for joy,
you who were never in labor;
because more are the children of the desolate woman
than of her who has a husband,”
says the LORD. Isaiah 54:1

2 Takeaways for you:

- God asks each of us “AM I enough?”
- Our suffering, our heartaches are never meaningless; but seldom in this life will you discover the meaning of your suffering beyond the need to hold our God closely through them.

Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. 26 My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. Psalm 73:25,26

3 things resulted from Hannah's society by way of fertility

1. Greater economic prosperity for the family
2. Future security to take care of Hannah as she aged
3. National security; the more kids the more soldiers

John H. Bruggeman, Professor Hebrew Union College :

“Barrenness in any Hebrew text is the effective metaphor for hopelessness.”

Because the LORD had closed Hannah's womb, her rival kept provoking her in order to **irritate** her. 1 Samuel 1:6

Irritate- actually is the idea to roar or to thunder, to create a deep emotional discord in another.

II. What changed Hannah's outlook?

This went on year after year. Whenever Hannah went up to the house of the LORD, her rival provoked her till she wept and would not eat. 8 Her husband Elkanah would say to her, “Hannah, why are you weeping? Why don't you eat? Why are you downhearted? Don't I mean more to you than ten sons?” 1 Samuel 1:7,8

Once when they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh, Hannah **“stood up.”** 1 Samuel 1:9

In the Hebrew that phrase **“stood up”** is actually an idiomatic phrase that actually means to be “firmly resolved” or “decisive action.

Robert Alter OT theologian:

“It is narratively significant that neither Peninnah or Elkanah will suffice for hope any longer. But in a moment of decisive action she turns from both her sociological hope the hope of Peninnah and her psychological hope her hope with Elkanah to identify with God alone.

In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the LORD, weeping bitterly. 11 And she made a vow, saying, “LORD Almighty, **if you** will only look on your servant's misery and **remember me**, and not forget your servant but give her a son, **then I will give** him to the LORD for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head.” 1 Samuel 1:10,11

Is Hannah attempting to bargain with God?

Look closely

Hannah **was praying in her heart**, ...Hannah replied, “I am a woman who is deeply troubled. .. I was pouring out my soul to the Lord.

1 Samuel 1 :13,15

Eli answered, “Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him.”¹⁸ She said, “May your servant find favor in your eyes.” Then she went her way and **ate something**, and her face was **no longer downcast**. 1 Samuel 1:17,18

Early the next morning they arose and worshiped before the LORD and then went back to their home at Ramah. Elkanah made love to his wife Hannah, and the LORD remembered her. 20 So in the course of time **Hannah became pregnant** and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, saying, “Because I asked the LORD for him.” 1 Samuel 1:17-20

Vss. 10,11-Prayer Vs. 18- Peace Vs. 20 Pregnancy